

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANILA 17954 01 OF 02 121020Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00
CIAE-00 /026 W

-----102704 121028Z /21/10

O 120425Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7811

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 17954

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS SECDEF IMMEDIATE, JCS IMMEDIATE, CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT CORRECTED THROUGHOUT)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PHL

SUBJECT: BASE ISSUES: FIRST MEETING WITH MARCOS

REF: (A) STATE 263594, (B) STATE 264328, (C) STATE 262931

1. SUMMARY: AFTER MY FIRST MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS AND REVIEW OF BASE ISSUES, HE HAS HIGHLIGHTED MANIFESTATIONS OF PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY, CRIMINAL JURISDICTION AND BASE PERIMETER PROBLEMS AS REQUIRING IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. HE HAS SUGGESTED THAT HE AND I MEET WITH ADVISORS AT 10:00 A.M. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT MARCOS MET WITH ME PRIVATELY FOR ONE HOUR WITHIN TWO HOURS OF MY PRESENTING MY CREDENTIALS NOVEMBER 11. AFTER EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THIS EARLY COURTESY, I SAID THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WAS DEEPLY INTERESTED IN RESOLVING OUTSTANDING ISSUES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE PHILIPPINES AND WANTED ME TO CONTINUE PERSONALLY THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH THE PRESIDENT HAD HAD WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE AND
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MANILA 17954 01 OF 02 121020Z

WHICH MRS. MARCOS HAD HAD WITH THE PRESIDENT AND OTHERS IN NEW YORK. THIS SUGGESTION OF A DIRECT REVIEW STEMS FROM OUR FEELING THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO REACH CERTAIN AGREEMENTS ON BASIC ISSUES BEFORE RESUMING ANY FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS. STALEMATED OR UNSUCCESSFUL DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE HELPFUL TO NEITHER SIDE. WE HAD NOTED FROM THE PRESS THAT AMBASSADOR ROMUALDEZ WAS BEING CALLED HOME IN CONNECTION WITH THE

RESUMPTION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. WE FELT THIS MIGHT BE PREMATURE SINCE, ALTHOUGH PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN RECENT WEEKS, THERE WAS STILL NOT CLEAR AGREEMENT ON HOW TO PROCEED ON CERTAIN ISSUES.

3. THE UNITED STATES HAD IDENTIFIED FOUR AREAS IN WHICH IT SEEMED DESIRABLE TO HAVE PRESIDENT MARCOS' VIEWS AND UNDERSTANDING BEFORE PROCEEDING TO LOWER LEVEL DISCUSSIONS. THESE INCLUDED (A) ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MANIFESTATION OF PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY, (B) CRIMINAL JURISDICTION, (C) DEFENSE ASSESSMENT, AND (D) SECURITY CONSULTATIONS. IN ADDITION, THE JOINT TASK FORCE ON BASE IRRITANTS HAD IDENTIFIED CERTAIN PROBLEMS ON WHICH GUIDANCE WAS REQUIRED BEFORE THE TASK FORCE CONTINUED ITS WORK. FINALLY, I SAID THAT I KNEW THE PRESIDENT WAS WELL AWARE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S DEEP CONCERN ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THAT ONE THE BASIS OF CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON, INCLUDING DISCUSSIONS WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND ON THE BASIS OF PERSONAL EXPERIENCE ELSEWHERE, I LOOKED FORWARD TO AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT ISSUES RELATING TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES WHICH WERE CAUSING CONCERN IN THE UNITED STATES.

4. I THEN PRESENTED PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT MARCOS. HE READ IT VERY CAREFULLY AND WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED TO RECEIVE IT. HE THEN COMMENTED THAT HE WOULD BE GLAD TO RECEIVE THE TEAM FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO UNDER-
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MANILA 17954 01 OF 02 121020Z

TAKE AN ASSESSMENT OF DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS. ON THE CONSULTATION ON SECURITY, HE SAID HE AGREES WITH THE CONCEPT THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD CONSULT ON QUESTIONS ARISING FROM THE TREATY AND RELATING TO THE SECURITY OF THE PHILIPPINES, BUT HE IS NOT CERTAIN AS TO THE BEST ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUCH CONSULTATIONS. HE SUGGESTED THAT EACH NATION'S MILITARY AUTHORITIES BE ASKED TO COME UP WITH THEIR VIEW ON HOW THIS COULD MOST EFFECTIVELY BE CARRIED OUT. HE AND I COULD THEN DISCUSS THE QUESTION.

5. POINTING OUT THAT BOTH THE ASSESSMENT OF DEFENSE NEEDS AND SECURITY CONSULTATIONS WERE "LONGER RANGE ISSUES", HE SAID HE WISHED IMMEDIATELY TO TURN TO THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MANIFESTATION OF PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY AT THE BASES. HE POINTED OUT THIS ALSO RELATED TO THE QUESTION OF CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

6. IN ACKNOWLEDGING HIS VIEWS ON THE QUESTION OF ASSESSING THE PHILIPPINE DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS, I POINTED OUT THAT WE HAD STILL NOT RECEIVED FROM SECRETARY ENRILE THE LIST OF PRIORITY REQUIREMENTS. PRESIDENT CARTER, IN HIS LETTER, HAD SUGGESTED AREAS WHERE WE COULD BE HELPFUL. MARCOS SEEMED

SURPRISED THAT WE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED ENRILE'S LIST BUT COMMENTED THAT IT WAS VERY CLOSE TO WHAT PRESIDENT CARTER WAS SUGGESTING.

7. ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MANIFESTATION OF PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY, I SAID THAT THIS WAS AN AREA WHERE WE WERE PREPARED TO MOVE BUT THAT I FELT IT IMPORTANT TO HAVE A VERY CLEAR UNDERSTANDING ABOUT ALL ASPECTS INCLUDING RELATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A PHILIPPINE BASE COMMANDER AND ANY FINANCIAL QUESTIONS THAT MIGHT BE INVOLVED. IN INDICATING THEIR READINESS TO PROCEED IN THE DIRECTION OF GREATER PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY, I STRESSED THAT THIS COULD ONLY BE WITH A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT U.S. FORCES AND U.S. BASE OPERATIONS WOULD REMAIN UNDER U.S. MILITARY CONTROL.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 MANILA 17954 01 OF 02 121020Z

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANILA 17954 02 OF 02 120553Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----096381 120558Z /21

O 120425Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7812

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 MANILA 17954

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS SECDEF IMMEDIATE, JCS IMMEDIATE, CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

8. PRESIDENT MARCOS SAID HE AGREED WITH THIS. HE RECALLED THAT DURING PREVIOUS NEGOTIATIONS THERE HAD BEEN A SUGGESTION THAT THAT AREA OF THE BASE CLEARLY REQUIRED FOR U.S. OPERATIONS BE DELIMITED AND THAT THE REMAINING PORTIONS, INCLUDING THE PERIMETER, BE UNDER PHILIPPINE JURISDICTION. I SAID I WAS NOT AWARE OF THIS PROPOSAL BUT WOULD CHECK WITH BASE AUTHORITIES. I DID KNOW THAT THE QUESTION OF THE SECURITY OF

THE PERIMETERS OF THE BASES WAS A VERY CRITICAL ONE AND REFERRED TO THE PROPOSAL PUT FORWARD BY THE U.S. IN THE JOINT TASK FORCE MEETINGS FOR THE INCORPORATION OF ELEMENTS OF THE PHILIPPINE ARMED FORCES IN BASE PERIMETER SECURITY. I SAID WE REGRETTED THAT THIS HAD NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED.

9. PRESIDENT MARCOS REPLIED THAT IN HIS VIEW QUESTIONS OF PERIMETER SECURITY WERE CLOSELY LINKED WITH ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MANIFESTATION OF PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY. PHILLIPPINE FORCES COULD NOT BE ASKED TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITIES WHERE THEIR OWN AUTHORITY OVER AN AREA WAS UNCERTAIN. HE HOPED WE COULD MOVE QUICKLY TO ESTABLISH PHILIPPINE BASE COMMANDERS AFTER WHICH THE PARTICIPATION OF PHILIPPINE FORCES IN THE PERIMETERS WOULD FOLLOW. I REPEATED AGAIN THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO MOVE TOWARD PHILIPPINE BASE COMMANDERS BUT WANTED TO BE CERTAIN THAT THERE WAS A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MANILA 17954 02 OF 02 120553Z

ON ALL POINTS BEFORE WE DID SO. IN PARTICULAR, I FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THERE BE NO PREMATURE ANNOUNCEMENTS OF OUR INTENTIONS IN THIS AREA UNTIL WE HAD REACHED FULL AGREEMENT. PRESIDENT MARCOS ASSURED ME THERE WOULD BE NO ANNOUNCEMENT

BUT ASKED THAT WE
TAKE THIS UP AS AN URGENT
MATTER WHEN NEXT WE MEET.

10. HE THEN ASKED ABOUT CRIMINAL JURISDICTION. I SAID THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO IMPROVE ARRANGEMENTS UNDER WHICH DUTY CASES WERE HANDLED PROVIDED IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT BECAUSE OF WORLDWIDE PRECEDENCE AND CONGRESSIONAL VIEWS, WE COULD NOT GIVE UP THE ULTIMATE RIGHT OF THE U.S. TO MAKE FINAL DECISIONS IN SUCH MATTERS. I THEN GAVE HIM FOR HIM TO STUDY THE CRIMINAL JURISDICTION PROPOSAL IN STATE 264329.

11. AFTER THIS EXCHANGE, PRESIDENT MARCOS SAID HE AGREED THAT HE SHOULD PARTICIPATE PERSONALLY IN THE DISCUSSIONS OF THESE VARIOUS ISSUES AND SUGGESTED THAT WE MEET AGAIN WITH ADVISORS AT 10:00 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, "POSSIBLY FOR THE WHOLE DAY." HE SAID THAT AMBASSADOR ROMAULDEZ HAD BEEN CALLED HOME BECAUSE SECRETARY ROMULO WAS DETAINED IN NEW YORK AND ACTING SECRETARY INGLES HAD HEAVY DUTIES. THERE WAS NO INTENTION TO RESUME THE NEGOTIATIONS AS BEFORE AT THIS TIME. HE SAID HE WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED ON WEDNESDAY BY AMBASSADOR ROMUALDEZ, SECRETARY ENRILE AND THE SECRETARY OF JUSTICE.

12. COMMENT: IN INITIAL MEETING WE APPEAR TO HAVE MAINTAINED A FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE FOR DISCUSSIONS AND TO HAVE ESTABLISHED THAT THE PRINCIPAL OUTSTANDING ISSUES WILL BE

DISCUSSED AT PRESIDENT MARCOS' LEVEL. CURRENT ATTENTION TO
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MANILA 17954 02 OF 02 120553Z

BASE PERIMETER PROBLEMS MAY PUSH US MORE RAPIDLY IN THE
DIRECTION OF A PHILIPPINE PRESENCE THAN WE MAY WISH BUT
IF WE CAN AT SAME TIME ACHIEVE A FAVORABLE AGREEMENT ON
PERIMETER SECURITY, THIS SHOULD BE TO OUR
ADVANTAGE.

13. AT WEDNESDAY'S MEETING, SUBJECT TO VIEWS OF WASHINGTON
AND MILITARY COMMANDS, I WOULD PROPOSE TO: (A) STATE IN SOME
DETAIL CONSISTENT WITH PREVIOUS U.S. NEGOTIATING POSITIONS
OUR VIEWS ON HOW TO PROCEED TOWARD AGREEMENT ON THE PRESENCE
OF A PHILIPPINE COMMANDER AND BASE PERIMETER SECURITY,
(B) SOLICIT REACTIONS OF PHILIPPINE SIDE TO OUR CRIMINAL
JURISDICTION PROPOSAL, (C) REVIEW FOR WIDER GROUP OUR
THOUGHTS ON ASSISTANCE IN MUTUAL DEFENSE AND SPECIFIC ECONOMIC
EFFORTS AND THE DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP AS PRESENTED IN STATE
263594, AND (D) SEEK AGREEMENT ON FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF
JOINT TASK FORCE.

14. I WILL ALSO BE PREPARED, SHOULD PRESIDENT DESIRE, TO
RESUME DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER ISSUES COVERED
IN STATE 262931. IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE ON THIS OCCASION,
I WILL SEEK ANOTHER TIME.

15. I WILL PLAN TO TAKE WITH ME MINISTER STULL, RADM. MCCLENDON,
MR. CONNORS AND LTC. HITT AND TO HAVE STANDING BY OFFICERS
OF THE BASES AND JUSMAG IN THE EVENT PHILIPPINE MILITARY
OFFICERS ARE ALSO PRESENT.

16. THE JOINT TASK FORCE MEETING, DUE ON TQPAT DATE, WILL
OBVIOUSLY BE POSTPONED.
NEWSOM

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.
SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MANILA17954
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770428-0548
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771166/aaaacelj.tel
Line Count: 262
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c299801b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 263594, 77 STATE 264328, 77 STATE 262931
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 614334
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BASE ISSUES: FIRST MEETING WITH MARCOS
TAGS: MARR, PDIP, RP, US, (MARCOS, FERDINAND), (NEWSOM, DAVID)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c299801b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009